

Amendments to the Specification:

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 3 with the following amended paragraph:

This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/047,503 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,620,448), filed on October 29, 2001, the technical disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

Please delete the section that begins at page 33 labeled "ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE" and replace with the following section:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An extruder die assembly and method for using same is disclosed that may be adapted to a wide variety of commercial-grade extrusion devices common in the food industry. The disclosed method comprises extruding a known composition of a farinaceous food product through the extruder die assembly of the present invention to produce a flavored direct-expanded food product exhibiting enhanced flavor characteristics, but requiring no post-extrusion drying or seasoning process. The injection section of the extruder die assembly is used to impart flavoring additives into the extrudate mass shortly before expansion, thereby preserving the flavoring characteristics of the additive by minimizing the heat exposure of the flavoring additive. The extruder die assembly may also include static mixing elements downstream from the injection section to homogenize the flavoring or seasoning media into the flowing mass of extrudate.